B1 cncl'd. hydrostatic gas bearings in which the rotatable components are rotated without any contact with the fixed components.--

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, as follows:

B2 cont. --However, the structure disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication (A) No. 55916/1999 has some problems. For generating hydrodynamic pressure in this bearing structure, a gas should extend between the radial bearing components 144 and 145, between the thrust bearing components 144 and 146, and between the thrust bearing components 144 and 147. In the structure as shown in Fig. 12, an opening to feed/discharge the gas is, as shown with an arrow 150 in the drawing, provided only at the upper end or the lower end of the spindle motor. Consequently, as is clear from the drawing, the gas flow for generating the hydrodynamic pressure passes through a sealing layer sealed by the magnetic fluid 153. Depending on the specifications and working conditions of a bearing, as well as the properties of a sealing component to be used, the incoming gas flow may break the magnetic sealing layer, and the high-speed rotation of the rotor hub 143 may splash the magnetic fluid 153. Once the magnetic fluid 153 is splashed, the rotatable components are no longer in contact with the fixed components, as a consequence of which the electrostatic charge may build up in the rotatable components, leading to possible damages on the HDD.--

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 16, as follows:

--Another problem is increased power consumption. When the peripheral speed of the rotatable components sealed by the magnetic fluid 153 becomes higher to a certain extent, the magnetic fluid 153 filling the gap between the fixed components and the rotatable components develops a large viscous resistance. This increases the rotational driving torque and consequently increases the power consumption. In addition, an increase of the viscous resistance

causes generation of heat, which increases the temperature of the whole HDD.--

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1, as follows:

B2 cncl'd.

--When ceramics, which are generally nonconductive and have high abrasion resistance, are used at the bearing sections, it is impossible to discharge electrostatic charge built up in the rotatable components even if the bearing components are in a contact state at the time the spindle motor stops. As a result, damages on the HDD may occur by the accumulation of electrostatic charge, which may lead to forced replacement of ceramics with conductive materials such as a stainless steel, even though ceramics have good abrasion resistance as bearing components.--

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 23, as follows:

B3

--Yet another aspect of the present invention relates to a bearing structure, wherein the conductive ceramics are made of Al_2O_3-30 vol.% TiC, TiB_2, or Si_3N_4-30 vol.% TiN.--

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 1, as follows:

B4

--In this embodiment, ceramics having desirable properties for a bearing component such as high abrasion resistance and rigidity are used as materials for the hydrodynamic bearing components. When the spindle motor stops, these bearing components come into contact with each other, enabling the discharge of electrostatic charge built up in the rotatable components to contacted fixed components. To implement discharge of electrostatic charge, the bearing components 16, 17, and 18 are made of conductve ceramics. Specifically, these bearing components are made from ceramics having conductivity as well as high abrasion resistance, such as Al_2O_3-30 vol.% TiC, TiB_2, or Si_3N_4-30 vol.% TiN or others.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 15 as follows: